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Malarial fever at Alice.

ALICE, TEX., July 28, 1904.

I went to Corpus Christi, remaining there the 27th.

I find a great many cases of malarial fever in Alice, intermittent and remittent in character. None of the cases are considered by the local physicians suspicious.

I saw a case with Doctor Burke last night, a child 4 years of age, who had returned home from Houston two weeks ago, sick with scarlet fever. Present condition: Temperature, 105; pulse, 160; fauces dark and covered with dirty, diphtheritic patches; glands of neck and cellular tissue swollen badly, hard and brawny; diagnosis, malignant scarlet fever. The patient will probably die within twenty-four hours. I advised isolation, disinfection, and fumigation of the house.

There are about 200 tickets sold here daily for points along the new line to Brownsville, and about the same number coming to Corpus Christi every evening, the majority of passengers proceeding north the next morning.

The situation at Alice is improving, but there are still many cases of continued fever.

I found no sickness at Banquete.

There was no change in the situation at San Diego when I left there, July 26. I shall return there from this place, reporting result of an immediate inspection.

Inspection of ranches—Antimosquito work—Conditions at Mier, Mexico—Work at Rio Grande City—Inspection of Camargo.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Cock reports, through Passed Assistant Surgeon Richardson, as follows:

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEX., July 25, 1904.

My first inspection after the date of my last communication was Refugio ranch, on the 16th instant. The estimated population here was 60. Very few water barrels are used and there are singularly few mosquitoes, and no sickness. On the 16th we also inspected Peñaña—estimated population 100—where the same conditions prevailed as at Refugio.

On the 17th we inspected San Pedro, a place of about 200 people. The water supply is mostly by barrels. Mosquitoes are abundant. We distributed antimosquito literature and gave the leading citizens a demonstration in oil work. At this point we found 8 cases of malarial fever, and in one case prognosis bad. This place is between 12 and 15 miles from Mier, Mexico, where I learn yellow fever prevailed in November of last year. Communication between these points is frequent.

On the 18th we reached Roma, a town of about 1,000 population. There is a good class of citizens here. The town is well drained and in good sanitary condition. The water supply is from cisterns, "pilas," barrels, and buckets. A "pila" is a peculiar kind of surface cistern, square, and usually built on a hillside. The few mosquitoes that we found here are *stegomyia*. We inspected 165 houses, 64 barrels; oiled 7 cisterns, 4 ponds, 5 pilas, and 9 barrels. The citizens were much interested in our work and gave us every aid.